

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-105 (Cancelled).

106 (Currently Amended). An isolated NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK) polypeptide that binds to cyc, comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

~~(a) a polypeptide comprising the C-terminus of NIK from residue 624 to 947 (SEQ ID NO: 19);~~

~~(b)(a) a variant of (a) maintaining a polypeptide having at least 95% identify with SEQ ID NO: 19, and which binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 19 binds to~~(a) and retaining the ability to bind to cyc;

~~(c)(b) a fragment of (a) or (b) of SEQ ID NO: 19, wherein said fragment binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 19 binds to that retains the ability to bind cyc and includes residues 640 to 720 of SEQ ID NO: 19; or~~

~~(d)(c) a salt or functional derivative of (a), or (b) or (c) that retains the ability to bind cyc that binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 19 binds to,~~ said functional derivative being an ester or aliphatic amide of the carboxyl group of the polypeptide or an N-acyl

derivative of a free amino group of the polypeptide, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group of the polypeptide.

107 (Currently Amended). An isolated NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK) polypeptide that binds to cyc, consisting of:

~~(a) the C-terminus of NIK from residues 624 to 947 (SEQ ID NO: 19);~~

~~(b) (a) a variant of (a) maintaining a polypeptide having at least 95% identify with SEQ ID NO: 19, and which binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 19 binds to (a) and retaining the ability to bind to cyc;~~

~~(c) (b) a fragment of (a) or (b) SEQ ID NO: 19, wherein said fragment binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 19 binds to that retains the ability to bind cyc and includes residues 640 to 720 of SEQ ID NO: 19; or~~

~~(d) (c) a salt or functional derivative of (a), or (b) or (c) that retains the ability to bind cyc that binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 19 binds to, said functional derivative being an ester or aliphatic amide of the carboxyl group of the polypeptide or an N-acyl derivative of a free amino group of the polypeptide, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group of the polypeptide.~~

108 (Currently Amended). An isolated NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK) polypeptide that binds to cyc, consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide that consists of NIK residues 640 to 720 (SEQ ID NO: 18);

(b) a variant of (a) maintaining at least 95% identity with (a) and retaining the ability to bind to cyc;

(c) a fragment of (a) or (b), wherein said fragment binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 18 binds to~~that retains the ability to bind eye;~~ or

(d) a salt or functional derivative of (a), (b) or (c) ~~that retains the ability to bind eye~~ binds to the same cyc protein that SEQ ID NO: 18 binds to, said functional derivative being an ester or aliphatic amide of the carboxyl group of the polypeptide or an N-acyl derivative of a free amino group of the polypeptide, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group of the polypeptide.

109 (Cancelled).

110 (Previously Presented). The polypeptide of claim 108, consisting of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 18.

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111 (Currently Amended). The polypeptide of claim 106, ~~wherein the variant~~which consists of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 19, in which the codon corresponding to 860 of human NIK encodes arginine instead of glycine.